



City of San Diego

Red Light Photo Enforcement Fact Sheet

History:	<p>In 1996, California enacted California Vehicle Code Section 21455.5, which authorized government entities to use automated photo enforcement systems at intersections. In 1998, San Diego began its own Red Light Photo Safety (RLPS) program. Camera systems were installed at 19 locations throughout the City of San Diego. When the legality of the cameras was challenged the courts determined the cameras were legal. However, the system was temporarily halted in 2001 for reevaluation. Significant changes were made to the program. (see Old vs. New attached)</p>
Local Statistics:	<p>While the system was operational in San Diego the accident rates dropped 44% at each of the monitored intersections and 33% at the surrounding intersections.</p>
National Statistics:	<p>Charlotte, North Carolina; 72% reduction in red light violations and a 25% decrease in total accidents at the twenty intersections with red light cameras.</p> <p>Oxnard, California; The red light violation rate was reduced 40% several months after the enforcement program began. At intersections not equipped with red light cameras, there was a 50% reduction rate.</p> <p>San Francisco, California; The number of red light runners dropped by 42% at photo-enforced intersections. Collisions caused by red light running decreased by approximately 10% citywide.</p>
How the Program Works	<p>Red light cameras are designed to identify someone who runs a red light without depending on the presence of a police officer.</p> <p>A red light camera system is connected to the traffic signal and to sensors buried in the pavement at the crosswalk or limit line. Cameras are mounted in enclosures at selected intersections.</p> <p>The cameras take four pictures of vehicles that run a red light. The first photo from each camera shows the vehicle prior to entering the intersection after the light has already turned red. The second two photos show the vehicles progression through the intersection while the light is red.</p> <p>The cameras record the date and time of the alleged violation, the location</p>

	of the occurrence, the speed of the vehicle, and the length of time elapsed since the light turned red and the vehicle entered the intersection.
What Happens Next	Once the film is processed and a sworn officer of the San Diego Police Department verifies the violation, a citation with photos is sent to the vehicle's registered owner.
Citations	<p>The citations are \$321.</p> <p>The City receives \$143 of each citation.</p> <p>The balance, \$178, goes to the State.</p> <p>The vendor, ACS, receives no percentage from citations</p>
What are the costs?	<p>Installation of a camera system at a new intersection cost approximately \$150,000</p> <p>Installation & upgrade at an existing intersection cost approximately \$90,000-100,000</p> <p>The monthly maintenance fee for each intersection is approximately \$4600</p>
Who chooses the locations?	The intersections are chosen by City of San Diego Traffic Engineering Division, Police Department, City Council, with input from Community Planning Groups and the public.
How do you choose a location?	<p>The intersections are chosen based on several criteria including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Total number of documented red light running accidents occurring at each intersection. ▪ Volume of pedestrian and vehicular traffic ▪ Special circumstances; schools, senior centers or churches in the area. ▪ The number of right-angle (broadside) type accidents. ▪ The number of citations issued ▪ The speed of a vehicle traveling through an intersection
What is the range for yellow times	The minimum threshold for yellow times was raised from the national average of 3 seconds to 3.9 seconds for a through movement and 3.4 seconds for a left turn. All intersections are set individually.
Proposed Locations 1st Year	<p>10th @ A, Council District 2</p> <p>Black Mountain @ Mira Mesa, Council District 5</p> <p>54th @ Montezuma, Council District 7</p> <p>La Jolla Village @ Towne Center, Council District 1</p> <p>32nd St @ Harbor Dr., Council District 8</p> <p>60th @ Imperial Ave, Council District 4</p> <p>Camino De La Reina @ Qualcomm Way, Council District 6</p> <p>Cleveland Ave @ Washington, Council District 3</p>